

# Pest Alert

FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
IN COOPERATION WITH YOUR STATE AGENCY

## OAK MORTALITY



AN AFFECTED TREE WHICH FAILED TO LEAF OUT IN THE SPRING

Mortality of oak, like oak wilt, has been noted throughout the eastern United States. The red oak group appears most susceptible; white oak is less susceptible and burr oak is apparently unaffected. Affected trees occur singly, or in small groups.

Unlike oak wilt, the affected tree fails to leaf out in the spring or the leaves expand to 1/3 to 1/2 normal size and mortality occurs in the late summer. The entire tree is affected simultaneously. All parts of the individual leaf turn brown uniformly, but the

leaves remain on the tree through winter and sometimes into the next growing season. There is no discoloration of sap-conducting tissues in the twigs; also, no pathogen has been consistently associated with this mortality.

Climatic conditions, insect defoliation, and poor site are considered possible causal factors of oak mortality, but the exact cause is yet undetermined. More specific information is needed on its incidence.

Send new reports of this disease to: